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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 15, 2008 the Examiner indicates that claims 1-6, 17, 18 and 23-25 are currently pending. However, the Applicant believes that claims 1-6, 17, 18, 23 and 24 are currently pending; the Applicant is unaware of claim 25. Otherwise, the Applicant wishes to express appreciation for the timeliness of the Official Office Action.

The Examiner has maintained previously rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,254,259, to Kobayashi. As an initial matter of fact, the Examiner has pointed, to Col. 3, lines 22-44 of Kobayashi as teaching "a controller configured to effect automatic operation as a function of an ambient light value, wherein said ambient light is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer". The Application respectfully points out that Kobayashi does not contain any discussion related to the recited limitation where **"ambient light is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer"**. Col. 3, lines 22-44, of Kobayashi states:

The reference data acquisition means 2d acquires reference data for the environment detection means 2 to estimate weather or road surface conditions from data other than the image data regarding ambiances of the vehicle. The reference data are delivered to the weather analysis means 2b, the road surface analysis means 2c, and the illumination control means 3. The reference data includes operational data for the apparatus mounted on the vehicle, environment illumination data, weather data, outside air temperature/humidity data, and data for detecting an oncoming vehicle or another vehicle traveling ahead of the vehicle of interest. For example, the reference data acquisition means 2d may include a control switch for activating wipers attached to the vehicle, extraneous light detection means for detecting ambient light of the vehicle (i.e., illumination detection sensor or the like), means for receiving from communications device disposed along a road, data regarding weather or road surface conditions (e.g., a receiver for use

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in road-to-vehicle communication, a navigation system, or the like), and a sensor for detecting outside temperature and humidity.

In no way does this language even suggest the recited limitation where **"ambient light is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer"**.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Kobayashi does not teach, suggest or imply an automatic vehicle exterior light control system, comprising: a controller configured to effect automatic operation as a function of an ambient light value, wherein said ambient light value is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer, said controller is further configured to generate an exterior light control signal as a function of the presents of an atmospheric condition of interest, wherein said controller is further configured to distinguish between reflections off of a highly reflective surface and reflections off of atmospheric conditions of interest, wherein an exterior light control output of said controller is in a first state when reflections off of a highly reflective surface are detected and said exterior light control output is in a second state when reflections off of atmospheric conditions of interest are detected as recited in claim 1. In that claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 6 are in condition for allowance over Kobayashi.

The Applicant further submits that Kobayashi does not teach, suggest or imply an automatic vehicle exterior light control system, comprising: a controller configured to effect automatic operation as a function of an ambient light value, wherein said ambient

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light value is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer, said controller is further configured to identify the source of a reflection in an image by employing at least one of the parameters selected from the group comprising: mean grayscale value of at least a portion of at least one image, total grayscale value of at least a portion of at least one image, average grayscale value of at least a portion of at least one image, slope of pixel column location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, slope of pixel row location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, intercept of pixel column location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, slope of pixel row location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, a coefficient of determination, parabolic fit of at least a portion of column pixel value averages in at least one image, multiple images of differing exposure times, inputs from vehicle pitch sensors, a low-pass filter applied to at least a portion of an image, gradual vertical cutoff in at least a portion of pixel rows within at least one image, row average grayscale value net increase moving downward in at least one image, white-to-red ratio of at least one pixel in at least one white image and at least one pixel in at least one red spectral filtered image, sum of average grayscale values for at least one row in at least one image, increase brightness of controlled vehicle's exterior light and detect increase in reflection, at least one probability function, and at least one neural network, wherein a state of an exterior light control output of said controller is at least partially dependent upon the source of said

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reflection in said image as recited in claim 17. In that claim 18 depends from claim 17, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is in condition for allowance over Kobayashi.

Yet further, the Examiner has maintain rejected claims 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,254,259, to Kobayashi in view of NPL document titled: "A Recurrent Neural Network Classifier for Improved Retrievals of Arial Extent of Snow Cover", to Simpson et al. For at least the reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1 and in that claim 5 depends from claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is in condition for allowance over Kobayashi and Simpson et al.

The Applicant further submits that Kobayashi, Simpson et al. or the combination thereof does not teach, suggest or imply an automatic vehicle exterior light control system, comprising: a controller configured to effect automatic operation as a function of an ambient light value, wherein said ambient light value is a weighted average of a plurality of ambient light level readings acquired from a photo transducer, said controller is further configured to identify the source of a reflection in an image by employing at least one of the parameters selected from the group comprising: mean grayscale value of at least a portion of at least one image, total grayscale value of at least a portion of at least one image, average grayscale value of at least a portion of at least one image, slope of pixel column location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, slope of pixel row location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image,

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intercept of pixel column location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, slope of pixel row location versus pixel grayscale value of at least a portion of a column of pixels within at least one image, a coefficient of determination, parabolic fit of at least a portion of column pixel value averages in at least one image, multiple images of differing exposure times, inputs from vehicle pitch sensors, a low-pass filter applied to at least a portion of an image, gradual vertical cutoff in at least a portion of pixel rows within at least one image, row average grayscale value net increase moving downward in at least one image, white-to-red ratio of at least one pixel in at least one white image and at least one pixel in at least one red spectral filtered image, sum of average grayscale values for at least one row in at least one image, increase brightness of controlled vehicle's exterior light and detect increase in reflection, at least one probability function, and at least one neural network, wherein a state of an exterior light control output of said controller is at least partially dependent upon the source of said reflection in said image as recited in claim 17. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is in condition for allowance over Kobayashi and Simpson et al.

Even further the Examiner has maintained rejected claims 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,254,259, to Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent 5,963,148, to Sekine et al. The Applicant respectfully submits that Kobayashi, Sekine et al. or a combination thereof does not teach, suggest or render obvious an automatic vehicle exterior light control system, comprising: a controller configured to detect at least one of a pedestrian and a bicyclist and further configured to provide a

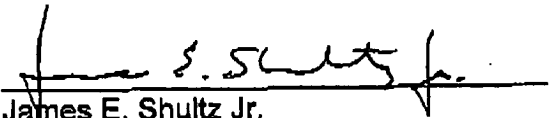
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corresponding indication to an operator of a controlled vehicle, wherein a state of an exterior light control output of said controller is at least partially dependent upon detection of either a pedestrian or a bicyclist as recited in claim 23. In that claim 24 depends from claim 23, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23 and 24 are in condition for allowance over Kobayashi and Sekine et al.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant submits that the present invention as defined in claims 1-6, 17, 18, 23 and 24 is in condition for allowance over the art of record. The Applicant, therefore, requests that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance. Please contact the undersigned should additional information be required.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: Gentex Corporation

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Date


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